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Another Treaty of Arbitration.

The novelty of the thing has already worn off, and we are becoming used to the announcement of the conclusion of another arbitration treaty. On the 12th of August, just a month after the signing of the Anglo-German agreement, a treaty was concluded between Great Britain and Norway and Sweden.

This is the first successful outcome of the negotiations which have been begun by the Swedish-Norwegian government with no less than ten powers, as heretofore announced, for the conclusion of arbitration conventions stipulating the reference of controversies to the Hague Court. There is reason to expect the announcement before long of several other Swedish-Norwegian agreements with the other governments of western Europe.

There is no nation in Europe, probably, where the general sentiment of public men in favor of arbitration as the only rational method of settling disputes is more advanced than in the Scandinavian peninsula. Most of the foremost men of the parliaments of both Norway and Sweden are members of the Interparliamentary Union, the conference of which at Christiania in 1899 was received with the most cordial and elaborate hospitality by the government officials.

This Anglo-Scandinavian convention, the tenth of the treaties of obligatory arbitration signed within the last ten months, is drawn in terms practically identical with those of the Anglo-French treaty,

which all the others, except the Danish-Netherlands treaty, have closely followed. It reserves, therefore, "vital interests" and questions of "honor," agreeing to refer to the Hague Court only questions of a judicial order and those relating to the interpretation of treaties.

The fact that all these treaties are couched in practically the same terms is a striking illustration of the disposition of the nations in these days to move together. None of them care to move much faster than the others are willing to go. But the fact that they are ready to move together, in this as in other matters, is a most hopeful omen. It indicates that they feel increasingly a sense of their mutual dependence and solidarity. It will be an immense uplift of civilization when the whole body of the nations have entered into treaties even as limited in time and in scope as the ten obligatory arbitration conventions which have already been made.

Imperfect as these agreements are, they will create confidence and open the way for something more complete. By the time the five years which they are to run are over, some of the powers will be ready to take the step so much desired by many of the leading advocates of arbitration and enter into a treaty without limitations either in time or scope. Then the rest will quickly follow the example thus set.

We confess to a deepening twinge of disappointment every time we receive the news of the signing of one of these treaties at the remembrance that the United States is not in the line of march. Perhaps our government, when it does act, — next winter, — will make up for its dilatoriness by doing something in advance of anything yet accomplished. Many of our citizens are expecting that it will. But we sympathize with the tender impatience with which our English colleagues are waiting for our government to do what is clearly its immediate duty in the matter. G. H. Perris of London, writing to the *Springfield Republican*, says: "We have neither the right nor the desire to put on airs because we have got half a dozen arbitration treaties before the United States has made a start in that direction. Still we cannot help turning an enquiring eye toward Mr. Roosevelt and his advisers; and presently we shall ask more plainly how long we are to wait for the compact which will be of them all the most important and agreeable to us." So say we all.